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BEYOND EMPATHY AND INCLUSION

THE CHALLENGE OF LISTENING IN DEMOCRATIC DELIBERATION

Mary F. Scudder

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Beyond Empathy and Inclusion examines how to achieve democratic rule in large pluralistic societies where citizens are deeply divided. Scudder argues that listening is key; in a democracy, citizens do not have to agree with their political opponents, but they do have to listen to them. Being heard is what ensures we have a say in the laws to which we are held. While listening is admittedly difficult, this book investigates how to motivate citizens to listen seriously, attentively, and humbly, even to those with whom they disagree.

FEATURES

- Develops a "listening act theory" modeled after speech act theory
- Critically examines the democratic value of inclusion and considers its limitations
- Provides a critique of empathy-based approaches to deliberation for being unaccommodating of difference
- Offers suggestions for how to enhance democracy when empathy is out of reach

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